

# **Forensic Science 101: An Introduction**

## ***Section II11A***

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**Introduction:** Welcome to the online Forensic Science 101: An Introduction. We hope that you enjoy this course. If you have any questions or comments about this course please do not hesitate to contact me. I will try to answer you as soon as possible; however, email and phone messages are not checked over the weekends.

**Course Information:** The Forensic Science 101: An Introduction course has an average completion time of 40 hours. This is a sufficient amount of time to complete the course, but if you need additional time you have until **June 30, 2011**. All extensions must be requested by the close of the semester.

**Course Description:** This online course will provide a basic, introductory overview of forensic science. Forensic science describes the science of linking people, places, and things that are involved in criminal activity. It can be seen as bringing science and law together. The forensic science disciplines assist in the investigations and adjudications of criminal and civil cases. They are strictly provided for educational purposes.

This course consists of thirteen informational units, several case studies, recommended readings, discussions, and additional practice activities to enhance your learning. The units will discuss aspects of crime scene investigation, the basics of evidence, microscopy, spectroscopic techniques, separation methods, pattern evidence, friction ridge examination, forensic chemistry, forensic biology, trace evidence, science and law, and forensic laboratory quality assurance.

**Assessments/Activities:** This course has the following assessments: Pretest, Quizzes 1-13, Course Evaluation, and Post Test. The assessments follow a release schedule based on what you have previously completed. You must take the Pretest before any of the Quizzes become available. You must finish all Quizzes and Discussion Posts before the Course Evaluation is available. All of the previously mentioned assessments must be completed before the Post Test is available.

I check student progress and **manually grade** the assessments (and discussion posts) several times throughout the day. If your assessment is



not graded right away, please be aware that it may be later that day or the next morning before it is graded.

**Discussion Posts:** Please take a moment to introduce yourself. Let us and your fellow class members know more about what you do. You can click on the Discussion Area on the Course Tools. Also, if you feel that a topic yields to a discussion, please feel free to use the Discussion Area. We will also have required discussions topics after some of the units.

Discussion postings will be geared toward professional experiences. It is okay to disagree with someone, however, please chose your words and responses carefully as to not hinder someone's learning experience. The discussion postings are simply to allow you to interact and see things from another person's perspective. Being respectful, non-judgmental, and open minded are the most important tools for this course.

**Grades:** You must have a grade of 80% or better on all assessments (quizzes and Post Test), and Discussion Posts in order to complete the course. You can check your grades by selecting **My Grades** on the left tool bar. Once all assessments (pre-test, quizzes, post test), discussion posts and course evaluation are complete you will receive a certificate of completion in the mail. International Learning Units (ILU) are available for this course.

**Policies:** We monitor each student's progress once registered and if the course is not accessed (nor completed) within the semester then the **\$30 no-access/non-completion fee** will be charged to you.

**Additional Information:** The **Getting Started** tab contains important information on what you need to take the course and how to navigate the eCampus system. The Library contains the bibliography and recommended readings for most of the Units. The appendix of this course, found in **Course Content**, contains additional information that may be beneficial to you.



**Course Work Checklist:** This list includes everything that needs to be completed in order to receive your certificate of completion.

| Complete | Assessments and Discussion Posts   |
|----------|--|
|          | Pre-Test   |
|          | Quiz 1   |
|          | Unit 1 Discussion: Forensic Science Background                                   |
|          | Quiz 2   |
|          | Unit 2 Discussion: Crime Scene Investigation                                     |
|          | Quiz 3   |
|          | Unit 3 Discussion: Physical Evidence   |
|          | Quiz 4   |
|          | Unit 4 Discussion: Microscopy  |
|          | Quiz 5   |
|          | Quiz 6   |
|          | Quiz 7   |
|          | Quiz 8   |
|          | Quiz 9   |
|          | Quiz 10  |
|          | Quiz 11  |
|          | Quiz 12  |
|          | Unit 12 Discussion: Expert Witness   |
|          | Quiz 13  |
|          | Unit 13 Discussion: Quality Assurance  |
|          | Unit 13 Discussion 2: Forensic Science on TV                                     |
|          | Course Evaluation  |
|          | Post Test  |
|          | <b>General Topics Discussion questions are not graded but highly recommended</b> |

*West Virginia University, in conjunction with the National Institute of Justice, is pleased to present these learning materials and this course to you.*

